WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Decisions taken at the Conference of Income Tax Commissioners**

*182. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day AIL India Conference of Income Tax Commissioners was held in New Delhi on June 6-7, 1988;

(b) if so, what decisions were taken at the Conference to minimise tax arrears, expedite collection and eliminate tax evasion;and

(c) what fresh steps have been taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AI1T PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Conference deliberates and makes recommendations for improving Income-tax administration.

**Preservation of Gharials from extinction**

*185. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY:

. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 20th June 1988 to the effect that Gharials, one of the three endangered species of crocodiles, found in the Gangetic region of Orissa are battling for survival in Satko-shia Gorge Sanctuary;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government nave taken to save hte specie from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The population of gharial in the Mahanadi River was reported to be only 7, according to a survey carried out in 1975. A gharial conservation project was taken up in the Sa.kosia Gorge Sanctuary. In the last 13 years, 550 sub-adult gharial have been released in the sanctuary. According to a survey carried out in the January, 1988, 25 gharial could be spotted along the Mahanadi River. The gharial have moved both upstream and downstream of he Sarkosia Gorge Sanctuary, in the Mahanadi River.

(c) The steps taken to save the gharial from extinction include:

I. A special conservation programme was initiated in 1974 by the Government of India, in collaboration with the concerned State Governments, FAO & UNDP, for the conservation and rehabilitation of crocodiles in India, including the gharial. Under this project, the most viable gharial conservation areas were identified and techniques of hatching and captive rearing of gharial were imparted to wildlife personnel.

II. Establishment of the following sanctuaries and national park which hold ghrial populations (i) National Chambal Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan (ii) Shergarh Sancturay in Rajasthan (iii) Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary in Rajasthan (iv) Satko-sia Gorge Sanctuary in Orissa (v) Son Gharial Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh (vi) Ken Gharial Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh (vii) Katerniaghat Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh (vii) Corbett National Park.